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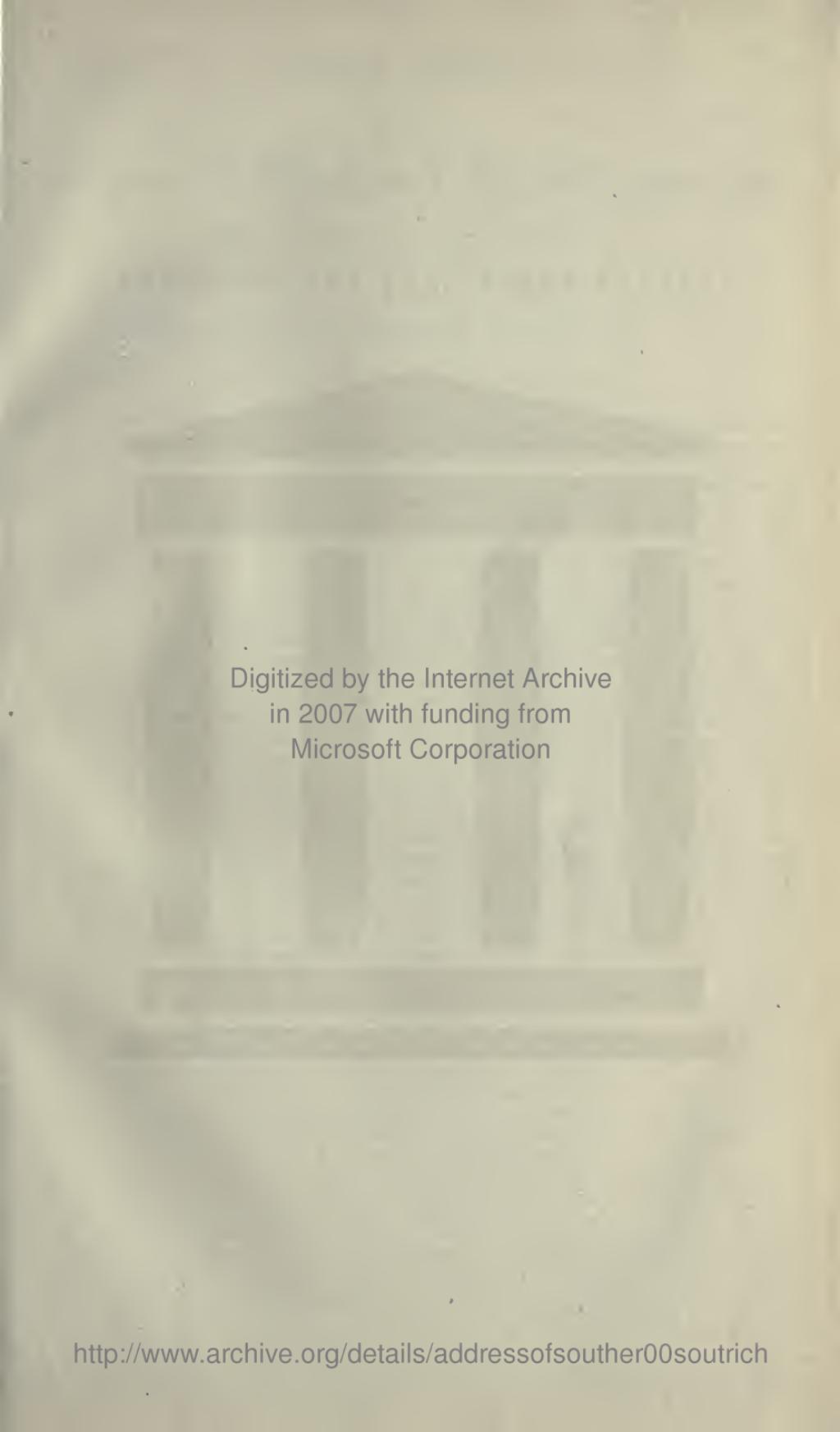


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A very faint, light gray watermark-style illustration of a classical building with four prominent columns supporting an entablature. The building appears to be a temple or a grand hall. The entire image is heavily faded, making the details of the building less distinct.

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# THE ADDRESS

OF THE

# Southern and Western Liberty Convention

HELD AT CINCINNATI, JUNE 11 & 12, 1845,\*

## TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

WITH NOTES BY A CITIZEN OF PENNSYLVANIA.

HAVING assembled in Convention as friends of Constitutional Liberty, who believe the practice of slaveholding to be inconsistent with the fundamental principles of Republicanism, of Religion, and of Humanity, we think it our duty to declare, frankly, to you, our fellow-citizens, the views which we hold, the principles by which we are governed, and the objects which we desire, by your co-operation, to accomplish. We ask and expect from you a candid and respectful hearing. We are not a band of fanatics, as some foolishly imagine, and others slanderously assert, bent on the overthrow of all Government and all Religion. We are citizens of the United States, having our homes in the West and the Southwest, some in the Slave States, and some in the Free, bound to our country by the most endearing ties and the most solemn obligations, filled with the most ardent desires for her prosperity and glory, and resolved, so far as in us lies, to carry forward and perfect the great work of individual, social, and civil elevation which our fathers nobly began.

### THE REVOLUTION.

The American Revolution was not a mere political accident. It was an inevitable result of a long train of causes, all conspiring to make men impotent of oppression. It was a necessary battle in the progress of the great conflict between Despotism and Freedom, between the Aristocratic and the Democratic principle.

Our fathers so regarded it. They claimed for themselves no new or peculiar rights: they only demanded security in the enjoyment of those rights to which, as descendants of Englishmen, they were entitled under the Great Charter: to which, as men, they were entitled under the grant of their Creator. They asserted the equal right of all men to the immunities which they claimed for themselves. It was

impossible that they should not see and feel the gross inconsistency of the practice of slaveholding with their avowed political faith. The writings of the Revolutionary period afford the amplest evidence that they did perceive and feel it. But slavery was already in the country, interwoven with domestic habits, pecuniary interests and legal rights. It existed under the sanction of the laws of the several colonies, beyond the reach of the direct legislation of Congress. The consequences of an immediate affranchisement of the enslaved were, also, generally dreaded. Our fathers, therefore, confined themselves to general declarations of the great doctrine of equal rights, which lies at the basis of all just government; and without directly interfering with the legislation of any particular member of the confederacy, endeavoured to establish the National Government and Policy upon such principles as would bring about, at length, the desired result of Universal Freedom.

We solicit your particular attention, fellow citizens, to this statement. It has been the practice of many to represent the American government as the patron and guardian of slavery. Some have even dared to say that it was the purpose of the founders of the government that it should fulfil this office. We join issue with all such persons. We denounce all such representations as libels upon the great men who won and bequeathed to us the precious heritage of Free Institutions. We insist that from the assembling of the First Congress in 1774, until its final organization under the existing constitution in 1789, the American Government was anti-slavery in its character and policy.

The importance of this position, and the probability that this address will be read by some who have not examined it, justify the appropriation of some space to the proof of it.

\* The Southern and Western Liberty Convention, held at Cincinnati, on the 11th and 12th June, 1845, was the most remarkable Anti-Slavery body yet assembled in the United States. The call embraced all those who were resolved to act against Slavery, by speech, by the pen, by the press, and by the ballot. It was not therefore exclusively a Convention of the Liberty party; and accordingly not a few were in attendance, who had not acted with that party. The whole number present as Delegates, was about two thousand—from the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan; from the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa; from Western Pennsylvania, and Western Virginia, and from Kentucky. Deputations were also present from Massachusetts,

New York and Rhode Island; and the whole assembly, including spectators, varied during the sittings from two thousand five hundred, to four thousand persons. Letters were received from Samuel Fessenden and Samuel H. Pond, Me., Titus Hutchinson, Vt., Elihu Burritt and H. B. Stanton, and Phineas Crandell, Mass.; Wm. Jay, Wm. H. Seward, Gerrit Smith, Horace Greeley, Wm. Goodell, Lewis Tappan, New York; C. D. Cleveland, F. Julius Lenoyne, Thomas Earle, Pennsylvania; F. D. Parish, Ohio; Cassius M. Clay, Lexington, Ky., and John Gilmore, Virginia.

It is proper to say, that the Chairman of the Committee which reported this very able address, and by whom the same was written, was S. P. Chase, Esq., of Cincinnati.

### FIRST CONGRESS.

We, therefore, invite your attention to a memorable act of the First Congress, which assembled in 1774. The Non-Importation, Non-Consumption, and Non-Exportation Agreement of that illustrious body, signed in their individual and representative capacities, by the delegates of all the represented colonies, and promulgated to the world as the solemn act of United America, contained this remarkable clause:—"We will neither import nor purchase any slave imported after the first day of December next: after which time we will wholly discontinue the slave trade, and neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels or sell our commodities or manufactures to those who may be concerned in it." The entire agreement of which this clause was part, was not, indeed, intended to be of perpetual obligation: yet the singularly emphatic phraseology of this part of it manifests clearly enough the understanding of the delegates as to the obligation they assumed for themselves and for the country. It was, in fact, a deliberate national vow and covenant against all traffic in human beings, and was so understood by the people at large. Virginia proceeded, soon after, to abolish the slave trade by a solemn act of legislation, and her example was followed by all or nearly all the States.

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Two years afterwards, the Declaration of Independence was promulgated to the world. In a single sentence of this great Act, our fathers imbodyed the fundamental principles on which they proposed to establish the free government of the United States. "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." In these words, for the first time in the history of the world, was the doctrine of the inalienable **RIGHT** of every man to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, solemnly proclaimed **AS THE BASIS OF A NATIONAL POLITICAL FAITH**. This declaration pledged its authors, and the nation which made it its own, by adoption, to eternal hostility to every form of despotism and oppression. With this declaration inscribed upon their banners, they went into the war of the Revolution, invoking the attestation of "the Supreme Judge of the world" to the rectitude of their purpose.

After a protracted and dubious struggle the independence of the American Republic was at length achieved, and the attention of Congress was turned to the establishment and extension of free institutions. Beyond the Alleghany Mountains, then the western limit of civilization, stretched a vast territory, untrodden except by the savage, but destined in the hope and faith of the patriots of the Revolution to be the seat of mighty states. To this territory, during the war just terminated, various States had set up conflicting claims: while the Congress had urged upon all, the cession of their several pretensions for the common good. The recommendations of Congress prevailed. Among the States which signalized their patriotism by the cession of claims to Western Territory, Virginia was pre-eminently distinguished, both by the magnitude of her grant and the spirit in which it was made. The

claim of Virginia comprehended almost all that is now Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. She yielded it all, almost with no other condition than that the territory should be disposed of for the common benefit, and finally erected into Republican States. The absence of all stipulations in behalf of slavery in these cessions, and especially in that of Virginia, furnishes strong evidence of the prevalence of anti-slavery sentiment at that day. But the action of Congress, in relation to the territory thus acquired, supplies decisive proof.

### ORDINANCE OF 1787.

It was in 1787, that Congress promulgated the celebrated Ordinance for the Government of the Territory northwest of the river Ohio. In this ordinance, for the purpose of "extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty; \* \* to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which for ever thereafter should be formed in said territory," Congress established "certain articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the territory to remain for ever unalterable, unless by common consent." One of these articles of compact declared that there should be "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes;" providing, however, that the right of retaking fugitives from service should be preserved to the citizens of the original States. This ordinance was adopted by the unanimous vote of all the States, there being but a single individual negative, which was given by a member from New York. Upon the question of excluding slavery, we may fairly assume that there was entire unanimity.

It seems to us impossible to conceive of a more significant indication of National Policy. The Congress was about to fix for ever the relation of five future States to the question of slavery. Under the influence of the liberal opinions of 1776, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and Pennsylvania, had already abolished or had taken measures for abolishing slavery within their limits. It was expected that other Atlantic States would follow their example. The creation of five non-slaveholding States in the West would evidently secure a permanent majority on the side of Freedom against Slavery. There was, at that time, no other national territory out of which slaveholding States could be carved: nor was there any thought of acquiring territory with such an object. And yet the votes of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia were given, and unanimously given, for the positive exclusion of slavery from all the vast region now possessed by Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, and for the virtual restriction of the right of reclaiming fugitive servants to cases of escape from the original States. There was very little compromise here. There was clear, unqualified, decisive action in the fulfilment and in renewal of the solemn pledge given in 1774, reiterated in 1776, and in pursuance of the settled national policy of restricting slavery to the original States, and of excluding it from all national territory and from all new States.

It is to be borne in mind that neither in this ordinance, nor in the national acts which preceded it, did the Congress undertake to legislate upon the

actual personal relations of the inhabitants of the original States. They sought to impress upon the national character and the national policy the stamp of Liberty; but they did not, so far as we can see, attempt to interfere with the internal arrangements of any State, however inconsistent those arrangements might be with that character and policy. They expected, however, and they had reason to expect, that slavery would be excluded from all places of national jurisdiction, and that whatever in the arrangements of particular States savoured of despotism and oppression, and especially that the system of slavery, which concentrates in itself the whole essence and all the attributes of despotism and oppression, would give way before the steady action of the national faith and the national policy.

Such was the state of opinion, when the Convention for framing the Constitution of the United States assembled. The ordinance of 1787, which was the most significant and decisive expression of this opinion, was promulgated while the Constitution-Convention was in session. The Constitution, therefore, is to be examined with reference to the public acts which preceded it, and the prevalent popular sentiment.

#### THE CONSTITUTION.

And the first thing which arrests the attention of the inquirer, is the remarkable preamble which is prefixed to the operative clauses of the instrument, in which the objects to be attained by it are particularly enumerated.—These are “to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty.” It would be singular, indeed, if a constitution adopted for such objects, and under such circumstances, should be found to contain guaranties of slavery. We should expect, on the contrary, that, although the national government created by it, might not be directly authorized to act upon the slavery already existing in the States, all power to create or continue the system by national sanction, would be carefully withheld, and some safeguards would be provided against its further extension. And such, in our judgment, was the true effect of the Constitution. We are not prepared to deny, on the one hand, that several clauses of the instrument were intended to refer to slaves; nor to admit, on the other, all the consequences which the friends of slavery would deduce from these clauses. We abstain from these questions. It is enough for our purpose, that it seems clear, that neither the framers of the Constitution, nor the people who adopted it, intended to violate the pledges given in the covenant of 1774, in the declaration of 1776, in the ordinance of 1787; that they did not purport to confer on Congress or the General Government any power to establish, or continue, or sanction slavery anywhere; that, if they did not intend to authorize direct national legislation for the removal of the slavery

<sup>1</sup> “A slave is one who is in the power of his master, to whom he belongs. The master may sell him, dispose of his person, his industry, and his labour: he can do nothing, possess nothing, nor acquire any thing but what must belong to his master.”—*Law of Louisiana*.

“Slaves shall always be reputed and considered real estate; shall be, as such, subject to be mortgaged, according to the rules prescribed by law, and they shall be seized and sold as real estate.”—*Law of Louisiana*.

existing in particular States under their local laws, they did intend to keep the action of the national government free from all connection with the system; to discountenance and discourage it in the States; and to favour the abolition of it by State authority—a result, then, generally expected; and, finally, to provide against its further extension by confining the power to acquire new territory, and admit new States to the General Government, the line of whose policy was clearly marked out by the ordinance and preceding public acts.

We cannot think that any unprejudiced student of the Constitution, examining it in the light of precedent action, and contemporary opinion, can arrive at any other conclusion than this. No amendment of the Constitution would be needed to adapt it to the new condition of things, were every State in the Union to abolish slavery, forthwith. There is not a line of the instrument which refers to slavery as a national institution, to be upheld by national law. On the contrary, every clause which ever has been or can be construed as referring to slavery, treats it as the creature of State law, and dependent wholly upon State law for its existence and continuance. So careful were the framers of the Constitution to negative all implied sanction of slaveholding, that not only were the terms “slave,” “slavery,” and “slaveholding,” excluded, but even the word “servitude,” which was at first inserted to express the condition, under the local law, of the persons who were to be delivered up, should they escape from one State into another, was, on motion of Mr. Randolph of Virginia, stricken out, and “service” unanimously inserted, “the former being thought to express the condition of slaves, and the latter the obligation of free persons.”

That such was the general understanding of the people will be the more manifest if we extend our examination beyond the Constitution as originally adopted, to the amendments subsequently incorporated into it. One of these amendments, as originally proposed by Virginia, provided that “no freeman should be deprived of life, liberty or property but by the law of the land,” and was copied, substantially, from the English Magna Charta. Congress altered the phraseology by inserting, in lieu of the words quoted, “no PERSON shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW;” and, thus altered, the proposed amendment became part of the Constitution. We are aware that it has been held by distinguished authority, that the section of the amended Constitution, which contains this provision, operates as a limitation only on national and not upon State legislation. Without controverting this opinion here, it is enough to say that, at the least, the clause prohibits the General Government from sanctioning slaveholding, and renders the continuance of slavery, as a legal relation, in any place of exclusive national jurisdiction, impossible.

For, what is slavery? <sup>1</sup> It is the complete and

“Penalty for any slave, or free coloured person, exercising the functions of a minister of the gospel, THIRTY-NINE lashes.” “Penalty for teaching a slave to read, imprisonment one year.” “Every negro, or mulatto, found in the State, not able to show himself entitled to freedom, may be sold as a slave.”—*Laws of Mississippi*.

“For attempting to teach any free coloured person, or slave, to spell, read, or write, a fine of not less than two

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absolute subjection of one person to the control and disposal of another person, by legalized force. We need not argue that no person can be, *rightfully*, compelled to submit to such control and disposal. All such subjection must originate in force; and, private force not being strong enough to accomplish the purpose, public force, in the form of law, must lend its aid. The Government comes to the help of the individual slaveholder, and punishes resistance to his will and compels submission. **THE GOVERNMENT, therefore, in the case of every individual slave is THE REAL ENSLAYER,** depriving each person enslaved of all liberty and all property, and all that makes life dear, without imputation of crime or any legal process whatsoever. This is precisely what the Government of the United States is forbidden to do by the Constitution. The Government of the United States, therefore, cannot create or continue the relation of master and slave. Nor can that relation be created or continued in any place, district or territory, over which the jurisdiction of the National Government is exclusive; for slavery cannot subsist a moment after the support of the public force has been withdrawn.

We need not go further to prove that slaveholding in the States can have no rightful sanction or support from national authority, but must depend wholly upon State law for existence and continuance.

We have thus proved, from the Public Acts of the Nation, that, up to the time of the adoption of the Constitution, the people of the United States were an anti-slavery people; that the sanction of the national approbation was never given, and never intended to be given, to slaveholding; that, on the contrary, the Government of the United States was expressly forbidden to deprive any person of liberty, without due legal process; and that the policy of excluding slavery from all national territory, and restricting it within the limits of the original States, was early adopted and practically applied.

hundred and fifty, nor more than five hundred dollars."—*Law of Alabama.*

"Any person who sees more than seven slaves without any white person, in a high road, may whip each slave twenty lashes." "Every coloured person is presumed to be a slave, unless he can prove himself free."—*Laws of Georgia.*

"Slaves shall be deemed sold, taken, reputed, and adjudged, in law, to be chattels personal in the hands of their owners and possessors, and their executors, administrators, and assigns, TO ALL INTENTS, CONSTRUCTIONS, AND PURPOSES WHATEVER." "Whereas, many owners of slaves, and others, that have the management of them, do confine them so CLOSELY to hard labour, that they have not sufficient time for natural rest, be it enacted that no slave shall be compelled to labour more than FIFTEEN hours in the twenty-four, from March 25 to September 25, OR FOURTEEN, for the rest of the year." "Penalty for KILLING a slave in a sudden heat or passion, or by undue correction, a fine of five hundred dollars, and imprisonment not over six months!"—*Laws of South Carolina.*

"In the trial of slaves, the Sheriff chooses the Court, which must consist of three Justices and twelve slaveholders, to serve as jurors."—*Law of Tennessee.*

"Any emancipated slave remaining in the State more than a year, may be sold by the overseers of the poor, for the benefit of the literary fund." "Any slave, or free coloured person, found at any school for teaching reading or writing, by day or night, may be whipped, at the discretion of a Justice, not exceeding twenty lashes." "Any white person assembling with slaves, for the purpose of

Permit us now, fellow citizens, to call your attention to the recorded opinions of the Patriots and Sages of the Revolutionary Era; from which you will learn that many of them, so far from desiring that the General Government should sanction slavery or extend its limits, were displeased that it was not, in terms, empowered to take action for its final extinction in the States, and that almost all looked forward to its final removal by State authority with expectation and hope.

The Preamble of the Abolition Act of Pennsylvania of 1780, exhibits clearly the state of many minds. "Weaned," says the General Assembly, "by a long course of experience from those narrow prejudices and partialities we had imbibed, we find our hearts enlarged with kindness and benevolence towards men of all conditions and nations; and we conceive ourselves, at this particular period, extraordinarily called upon by the blessing we have received, to manifest the sincerity of our professions and to give a substantial proof of our gratitude."

The sentiments of Mr. Jefferson are too well known to justify large quotations from his writings. We invite, however, your attention to two sentences; and will observe, in passing, that his opinions were shared by almost every Virginian of distinguished patriotism or ability.

In his Notes on Virginia, he said:—"I think a change already perceptible since the origin of the present revolution. The spirit of the master is abating, that of the slave is rising from the dust, his condition mollifying, the way, I hope, preparing, under the auspices of Heaven, for a total emancipation; and that is disposed, in the order of events, to be with the consent of the masters, rather than by their extirpation."

On another occasion he said, "Nobody wishes more ardently than I to see an abolition not only of the trade, but of the condition of slavery; and cer-

teaching them to read or write, shall be fined not less than ten, nor more than a hundred dollars."—*Laws of Virginia.* By the revised code of this State, SEVENTY-ONE offences are punished with DEATH, when committed by slaves, and by nothing more than imprisonment when by whites.

"Any slave convicted of petty treason, murder, or wilful burning of dwelling-houses, may be sentenced to have the right hand cut off, to be hanged in the usual manner, the head severed from the body, the body divided into four quarters, and the head and quarters set up in the most public place in the country, where such fact was committed."—*Law of Maryland.*

We might extend such extracts from such laws, (if laws they can be called,) to the size of an octavo;—laws that would disgrace the most savage people upon the face of the earth. In reference to them, the editor of the New York Tribune, of November 25, 1845, thus speaks: "Laws which allow one man to sell another man a thousand miles away from his wife, and their children five hundred miles apart in other directions, without right or hope of reunion—which allow men to beat, ravish, or even murder women of the degraded caste with impunity, in the presence of a dozen witnesses of their own colour, if there are none of the ruling caste to testify against them—laws, which give to a white drunkard and gambler all the earnings of an ingenious and industrious black family for life, with privilege to flog them into the bargain—these laws are hateful to God, and pernicious to mankind. We can comprehend them as well in New York as in Kentucky, and they cannot be less than infernal anywhere."

tainly nobody will be more willing to encounter every sacrifice for that object."

In a letter to John F. Mercer, George Washington said, "I never mean, unless some particular circumstances should compel me to it, to possess another slave by purchase; it being among my first wishes to see some plan adopted by which slavery in this country may be abolished by law."

In a letter to Sir John Sinclair, assigning reasons for the depreciation of Southern lands, he said, "There are in Pennsylvania laws for the gradual abolition of slavery, which neither Virginia nor Maryland have at present, but which nothing is more certain than that they must have, and at a period not remote."<sup>2</sup>

General Lee of Virginia, in his "Memoirs on the Revolutionary War," remarked, "The Constitution of the United States, adopted lately with so much difficulty, has effectually provided against this evil, (the slave trade,) after a few years. It is much to be lamented, that having done so much in this way, a provision had not been made for the gradual abolition of slavery."

Judge Tucker of Virginia, in a letter to the General Assembly of that State, in 1796, recommending the abolition of slavery, and speaking of the slaves in Virginia, said, "Should we not at the time of the Revolution have loosed their chains and broken their fetters? or, if the difficulties and dangers of such an experiment prohibited the attempt during the convulsions of a revolution, is it not our duty to embrace the first moment of constitutional health and vigour to effectuate so desirable an object, and to remove from us a stigma with which our enemies will never fail to upbraid us, nor our consciences to reproach us?"

Luther Martin, of Maryland, left the Convention before the Constitution was finally completed. He opposed its adoption, and assigned, in his report to the Maryland legislature, as a leading reason for his opposition, the absence from the instrument of express provisions against slavery. He said that it was urged in the Convention, "that by the proposed system we were giving the General Government full and absolute power to regulate commerce, under which general power it would have a right to restrain or totally prohibit the slave-trade; it must, therefore, appear to the world absurd and disgraceful to the last degree, that we should except from the exercise of that power the only branch of commerce which is unjustifiable in its nature, and contrary to the rights of mankind:—that, on the contrary, we ought rather to prohibit expressly in our Constitution the further importation of slaves, and to authorize the General Government, from time to time, to make such regulations as should be thought most advantageous for the gradual abolition of slavery, and the emancipation of the slaves which are already in the States."

James Wilson, of Pennsylvania, signed the Con-

<sup>2</sup> In a letter to Robert Morris, he also said, "There is only one proper and effectual mode by which the abolition of slavery can be accomplished, and that is by legislative authority; and this, as far as my suffrage will go, shall never be wanting."

In a speech in the House of Delegates of Maryland, Wm. Pinckney said, "By the eternal principles of natural justice, no master in this State has a right to hold his slave for a single hour."

stitution, taking a very different view of its provisions, bearing upon slavery, from that of Mr. Martin, but agreeing with him entirely as to slavery itself. In the Ratification Convention of Pennsylvania, speaking of the clause relating to the power of Congress over the slave-trade after twenty years, he said: "I consider this clause as laying the foundation for banishing slavery out of this country. It will produce the same kind of gradual change which was produced in Pennsylvania: the NEW STATES, which are to be formed, will be under the control of Congress in this particular, and SLAVERY WILL NEVER BE INTRODUCED AMONG THEM. It presents us with the pleasing prospect that the rights of mankind will be acknowledged and established throughout the Union."

In the Ratification Convention of Massachusetts, Gen. Heath declared that "Slavery was CONFINED TO THE STATES NOW EXISTING: it could not be extended. By their ordinance Congress had declared that THE NEW STATES should be republican, and have no slavery."<sup>3</sup>

In the Ratification Convention of North Carolina, Mr. Iredell, afterwards a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, observed, "When the entire abolition of slavery takes place, it will be an event which must be pleasing to every generous mind and every friend of human nature."

In the Ratification Convention of Virginia, Mr. Johnson said, "The principle of emancipation has begun since the revolution. Let us do what we will, it will come round."

In the course of the debate in the Congress of 1789, the first under the Constitution, on a petition against the slave-trade, Mr. Parker, of Virginia, remarked, that "he hoped Congress would do all that lay in their power to restore human nature to its inherent privileges, and, if possible, wipe off the stigma which America laboured under. The inconsistency in our principles, with which we are justly charged, should be done away, that we may show by our actions the pure beneficence of the doctrine which we held out to the world in our Declaration of Independence." In the same debate Mr. Brown, of North Carolina, observed, "The emancipation of the slaves will be effected in time: it ought to be a gradual business; but he hoped Congress would not precipitate it to the great injury of the Southern States." And Mr. Jackson, of Georgia, complained, "That it was THE FASHION OF THE DAY to favour the liberty of the slaves."

These citations might be indefinitely multiplied, but we forbear. Well might Mr. Leigh, of Virginia, remark, in 1832, "I thought, till very lately, that IT WAS KNOWN TO EVERYBODY, that during the revolution, and for many years after, the abolition of slavery was a favourite topic with many of our ablest statesmen, who entertained, with respect, all the schemes which wisdom or ingenuity could suggest for accomplishing the object."

Dr. Rush, of Pennsylvania, declared slavery to be "repugnant to the principles of Christianity, and rebellion against the authority of a common Father."

In the same Convention, in reference to the provisions of the Constitution that Congress should have power to stop the domestic slave-trade, called in that instrument "the migration of persons," Judge Dawes remarked, that "slavery had received its death-wound, and would die of consumption."

THE CONSEQUENCES EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUCH  
ACTS AND OPINIONS.

Fellow-Citizens: The public acts, and the recorded opinions of the fathers of the revolution are before you. Let us pause here. Let us reflect what would have been the condition of the country had the original policy of the nation been steadily pursued, and contrast what would have been with what is.

At the time of the adoption of the Constitution, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, had become non-slaveholding States. By the ordinance of 1787, provision had been made for the erection of five other non-slaveholding States. The admission of Vermont and the District of Maine, as separate States, without slavery, was also anticipated. There was no doubt that New York and New Jersey would follow the example of Pennsylvania. Thus it was supposed to be certain that the Union would ultimately embrace at least fourteen free States, and that slavery would be excluded from all territory thereafter acquired by the nation, and from all States created out of such territory.

This was the true understanding upon which the Constitution was adopted. It was never imagined that new slave States were to be admitted; unless, perhaps, which seems probable, it was contemplated to admit the western districts of Virginia and North Carolina, now known as Kentucky and Tennessee, as States, without any reference to the slavery already established in them. In no event, to which our fathers looked forward, could the number of slave States exceed eight, while it was almost certain that the number of free States would be at least fourteen. It was never supposed that slavery was to be a cherished interest of the country, or even a permanent institution of any State. It was expected that all the States, stimulated by the examples before them, and urged by their own avowed principles recorded in the Declaration, would, at no distant day, put an end to slavery within their respective limits. So strong was this expectation, that JAMES CAMPBELL, in an address at Philadelphia, before the Society of the Cincinnati, in 1787, which was attended by the Constitution Convention, then in session, declared "the time is not far distant when our sister States, in imitation of our example, shall turn their vassals into freemen." And Jonathan Edwards predicted in 1791, that, "in fifty years from this time, it will be as disgraceful for a man to hold a negro slave, as to be guilty of common robbery or theft."

\* The whole number of representatives in the House, is 223. Of these the free States have 135, the slave, 88; and of these 88, but 68 are the representatives of freemen, the remaining 20 being representatives of slave property.

The manner in which the present ratio of representation was fixed, is one which should cover with lasting disgrace the northern representatives, who voted for it. The number fixed by the House, was one representative for every 50,189 inhabitants. This would have given them 306 members; but the Senate, fearing the influence of so large a body of freemen as this would give, sent back the bill, with the ratio of 70,680, which would reduce the House to 223, and give the free States a majority of 47, instead of 68. But why the odd number, 68? It deprives four great States of the North, namely, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, of one member each.

Even the correspondent of the New York Herald could thus write at the time: "The Senate apportionment has

It cannot be doubted that, had the original policy and original principles of the Government been adhered to, this expectation would have been realized. The example and influence of the General Government would have been on the side of freedom. Slavery would have ceased in the District of Columbia immediately upon the establishment of the Government within its limits. Slavery would have disappeared from Louisiana and Florida upon the acquisition of those territories by the United States. No laws would have been enacted, no treaties made, no measures taken for the extension or maintenance of slavery. Amid the rejoicings of all the free, and the congratulations of all friends of freedom, the last fetter would, ere now, have been stricken from the last slave, and the principles and institutions of liberty would have pervaded the entire land.

#### ACTUAL RESULTS.

How different—how sadly different are the facts of history! LUTHER MARTIN complained, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, "that when our own liberties were at stake, we warmly felt for the common rights of men: the danger being thought to be passed which threatened ourselves, we are daily growing more and more insensible to those rights." This insensibility continued to increase, and prepared the way for the encroachments of the political slave power, which originated in the three-fifths rule of the Constitution. This rule, designed, perhaps, as a censure upon slavery, by denying to the slave States the full representation to which their population would entitle them, has had a very different practical effect. It has virtually established in the country an aristocracy of slaveholders. It has conferred on masters the right of representation for three-fifths of their slaves. The representation from the slave States in Congress has always been from one-fifth to one-fourth greater than it would have been, were freemen only represented.<sup>4</sup> Under the first apportionment, according to this rate, a district in a free State containing thirty thousand free inhabitants would have one representative. A district in a slave State, containing three thousand free persons and forty-five thousand slaves, would also have one. In the first district a representative could be elected only by the majority of five thousand votes: in the other, he would need only the majority of five hundred. Of course, the representation from slave States, elected by a much smaller constituency, and bound together by a common tie, would generally act in concert, and always with special regard

robbed the north of at least one quarter of its practical influence in the Union, when regarded in its full extent; and the members of the free States who voted for it, have thus surrendered the rights of their constituents, and violated their trusts."

It is curious, also, to look at the fractions unrepresented. The slave States have but 140,092; the free, 218,678. The fraction of Virginia is but 21 that of Pennsylvania, 27,687.

In the Presidential contest of 1841, the slave States had 114 electors; the free, 161; while the whole popular vote of the slave States was but 693,434; the free, 1,710,041. That is, while the free States had but about two-fifths more in the number of electors, they had nearly three times as many popular votes. Pennsylvania had 26 electors, and a popular vote of 287,697; while Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia together, had 28 electors, and but 159,525 popular vote: that is, with but little more than half the popular vote they had two more electors.

to the interests of masters whose representatives in fact they were. Every aristocracy in the world has sustained itself by encroachment, and the aristocracy of slaveholders in this country has not been an exception to the general truth. The nation has always been divided into parties, and the slaveholders, by making the protection and advancement of their peculiar interests the price of their political support, have generally succeeded in controlling *all*. This influence has greatly increased the insensibility to human rights, of which MARTIN indignantly complained. It has upheld slavery in the District of Columbia and in the Territories in spite of the Constitution: it has added to the Union six slave States created out of national Territories:<sup>\*</sup> it has usurped the control of our foreign negotiation,<sup>†</sup> and domestic legislation:<sup>‡</sup> it has dictated the choice of the high officers of our Government at home,<sup>§</sup> and of our national representatives abroad:<sup>||</sup> it has filled every department of executive and judicial administration with its friends and satellites:<sup>¶</sup> it has detained in slavery multitudes who are constitutionally entitled to their freedom: it has waged unrelenting war with the most sacred rights of the free, stifling the freedom of speeches and of debate, setting at naught

the right of petition, and denying in the slave States those immunities to the citizens of the free, which the Constitution guarantees: and, finally, it has dictated the acquisition of an immense foreign territory, not for the laudable purpose of extending the blessings of freedom, but with the bad design of diffusing the curse of slavery, and thereby consolidating and perpetuating its own ascendancy.

#### WHAT WE MEAN TO DO.

Against this influence, against these infractions of the Constitution, against these departures from the national policy originally adopted, against these violations of the national faith originally pledged, we solemnly protest. Nor do we propose only to protest. We recognize the obligations which rest upon us as descendants of the men of the revolution, as inheritors of the institutions which they established, as partakers of the blessings which they so dearly purchased, to carry forward and perfect their work. We mean to do it, wisely and prudently, but with energy and decision. We have the example of our fathers on our side. We have the Constitution of their adoption on our side. It is our duty, and our purpose, to rescue the Government from the control

\* Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, Arkansas, and Florida.

† It is well known that by far the greater number of our foreign ministers have been from the Slave States, and that they have ever been most vigilant to promote the interests of those States, while the far more important interests of the Free States have been, comparatively, neglected. In 1841, out of seven persons nominated, in succession, for diplomatic stations, six were from the Slave States, which were all immediately confirmed, while the nomination of the seventh, Edward Everett of Massachusetts, was laid on the table, till the slaveholders could satisfy themselves that he had no views adverse to their "peculiar institutions."

What untold benefit would it have been to our Free States, if foreign nations had been induced, as they doubtless might have been, to favour our agricultural and manufacturing products, as they have been induced, by slaveholding ministers, to favour COTTON, TOBACCO, AND RICE!

‡ No one man has so much influence over our "domestic legislation," as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He it is that appoints all the committees, which committees bring before the House such subjects, and present them in such aspects, as best suit their views. Since the organization of our government, in 1789, out of the 56 years, the Slave States have had the speaker 38 years, the Free, 18 years. With the exception of John W. Taylor, of New York, who served three years, the Free States did not give a speaker to the House from 1809 to 1845.

§ Of the TEN Presidents, since 1789, the Slave States have had six, who will have served, at the end of the present term, 44 years; the Free States four, who have served 16 years. In this, Gen. Garrison's whole term of four years is reckoned. What is also worthy of remark, is, that no Northern President has served more than one term.

Next in importance to the President, is the office of Secretary of State, as he manages all the business and correspondence with foreign courts, instructs our foreign ministers, and negotiates all treaties. Of the 15 who have filled this office, up to 1845, the Slave States have had 10, who have served 37 years; the Free States 5, who have served 19 years.

|| In nothing is the gross injustice practised towards the Free States, more conspicuous than in the persons employed in those civil Executive offices, at the city of Washington, and in those Diplomatic and Consular stations abroad, where the compensation is by salary. In the following list we give the persons employed in a few of the States, with their salaries, and the number of free white inhabitants of the respective States.

	Persons.	Salaries.	Free population.
Virginia	114	\$200,395	740,968
New York	37	63,250	2,378,890
Maryland	133	170,305	318,204
Pennsylvania	90	123,790	1,676,115
District of Co.	99	77,455	30,657
Massachusetts	43	86,245	729,030
Kentucky	7	34,150	590,253
Ohio	6	4,400	1,502,122

¶ The Judiciary is the balance-wheel of our government. It takes cognizance of questions of the highest earthly moment—questions of constitutional law—questions of chartered rights and privileges—questions involving millions of property—and, above all, questions that decide the liberty and slavery of man. If there be any spot, therefore, that should be free from sectional bias, it is the Supreme Court of the United States, the judges of which should be appointed, not only for their high legal attainments and integrity, but with reference to the number of inhabitants, and, consequently, to the legal interests of the different parts of the country. But how entirely opposite has been the practice. Of the 30 Judges of that Court, the Slave States have had 17; the Free States 13; and that, too, while the free inhabitants of the Slave States are but about four and a half millions; the inhabitants of the Free States nine and a half millions—more than double.

Then look at the most unjust manner in which the circuits are divided. Vermont, Connecticut, and New York, with 42 representatives in Congress, and a free population of over three millions, constitute one circuit; while Alabama and Louisiana, with but 11 representatives, and a free population of but half a million, constitute another circuit. New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with a population of two millions, constitute the third circuit. Mississippi and Arkansas, with a free population of but half a million, constitute the ninth circuit. We say *free* population, because the poor slave has nothing to do with courts of law, having no *legal* rights to maintain.

Lastly, observe the same inequality and injustice, carried out in the salaries of the Judges. Louisiana, with a free population of 183,959, has one Judge at a salary of 3000 dollars; Ohio, with a population of 1,519,464, more than eight times as great as that of Louisiana, has only one Judge, at a salary of 1000: that is, while he has more than eight times as many people to do business for, he receives but one third as much pay. Arkansas, with a free population of 77,639, has one Judge at a salary of 2000 dollars; New Hampshire, with a popula-

of the slaveholders; to harmonize its practical administration with the provisions of the Constitution, and to secure to all, without exception, and without partiality, the rights which the Constitution guarantees. We believe that slaveholding, in the United States, is the source of numberless evils, moral, social and political; that it hinders social progress; that it embitters public and private intercourse; that it degrades us as individuals, as States, and as a nation; that it holds back our country from a splendid career of greatness and glory. We are, therefore, resolutely, inflexibly, at all times, and under all circumstances, hostile to its longer continuance in our land. We believe that its removal can be effected peacefully, constitutionally, without real injury to any, with the greatest benefit to all.

#### HOW WE MEAN TO DO IT.

We propose to effect this by repealing all legislation, and discontinuing all action, in favour of slavery, at home and abroad; by prohibiting the practice of slaveholding in all places of exclusive national jurisdiction, in the District of Columbia, in American vessels upon the seas, in forts, arsenals, navy yards; by forbidding the employment of slaves upon any public work; by adopting resolutions in Congress, declaring that slaveholding, in all States created out of national territories, is unconstitutional, and recommending to the others the immediate adoption of measures for its extinction within their respective limits; and by electing and appointing to public station such men, and only such men as openly avow our principles, and will honestly carry out our measures.

The constitutionality of this line of action cannot be successfully impeached. That it will terminate, if steadily pursued, in the utter overthrow of slavery at no very distant day, none will doubt. We adopt it, because we desire, through, and by the Constitution, to attain the great ends which the Constitution itself proposes, the establishment of justice, and the security of liberty. We insist not, here, upon the opinions of some, that no slaveholding, in any State of the Union, is compatible with a true and just

tion of **284,573**, has but one Judge, at a salary of **1000** dollars. Mississippi, with a free population of **180,440**, has one Judge, who receives **2500** dollars; Indiana, with a population of **685,863**, has but one Judge, who receives only **1000** dollars; receiving but two-fifths as much pay for doing more than three times the work.

\* The following is a portion of the Address of the Pennsylvania Convention, held in Philadelphia, February 22, 1844.

"The great object of the Liberty party is, in the words of the Constitution, 'TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE; TO SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY.' It is, ABSOLUTE AND UNQUALIFIED DIVORCE OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM ALL CONNECTION WITH SLAVERY. We would say, in the fervent language of that noble son of freedom, CASSIUS M. CLAY, of Kentucky, 'Let the whole North, in a mass, in conjunction with the patriotic of the South, withdraw the moral sanction and legal power of the Union from the sustenance of slavery.' We would employ every CONSTITUTIONAL means to eradicate it from our entire country, because it would be for the highest welfare of our entire country. We would have liberty established in the District, and in all the Territories. We would put a stop to the internal slave trade, pronounced, even by Thomas Jefferson Randolph, of Virginia, to be 'worse and more odious than the foreign slave trade itself.' We would, in the words of the Constitution, have 'the citizens of each State have all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States'; and not, for the colour of their skin, be sub-

construction of the Constitution; nor upon the opinions of others, that the Declaration of Independence, setting forth the creed of the nation, that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with an inalienable right of liberty, must be regarded as the common law of America, antecedent to, and unimpaired by, the Constitution; nor need we appeal to the doctrine that slaveholding is contrary to the supreme law of the Supreme Ruler, preceding and controlling all human law, and binding upon all legislatures in the enactment of laws, and upon all courts in the administration of justice. We are willing to take our stand upon propositions generally conceded:—that slaveholding is contrary to natural right and justice; that it can subsist nowhere without the sanction and aid of positive legislation; that the Constitution expressly prohibits Congress from depriving any person of liberty without due process of law. From these propositions we deduce, by logical inference, the doctrines upon which we insist. We deprecate all discord among the States; but do not dread discord so much as we do the subjugation of the States and the people to the yoke of the slaveholding oligarchy. We deprecate the dissolution of the Union, as a dreadful political calamity; but if any of the States shall prefer dissolution to submission to the Constitutional action of the people on the subject of slavery, we cannot purchase their alliance by the sacrifice of inestimable rights, and the abandonment of sacred duties.

Such, fellow citizens, are our views, principles, and objects.\* We invite your co-operation in the great work of delivering our beloved country from the evils of slavery. No question half so important as that of slavery, engages the attention of the American people. All others, in fact, dwindle into insignificance in comparison with it. The question of slavery is, and, until it shall be settled, must be, the paramount moral and political question of the day. We, at least, so regard it; and, so regarding it, must subordinate every other question to it.

It follows, as a necessary consequence, that we cannot yield our political support to any party which does not take our ground upon this question.

jected to every indignity and abuse, and wrong, and even imprisonment.(a) We would have equal taxation. We would have the seas free. We would have free and secure post-office. We would have liberty of speech and of the press, which the Constitution guarantees to us. We would have our members in Congress utter their thoughts freely, without threats from the pistol or the bowie knife. We would have the right of petition most sacredly regarded. We would secure to every man what the Constitution secures, 'the right of trial by jury.' We would do what we can for the encouragement and improvement of the coloured race. We would look to the best interests of the country, and the *whole* country, and not legislate for the good of an Oligarchy, the most arrogant that ever lorded it over an insulted people. We would have our commercial treaties with foreign nations regard the interests of the Free States. We would provide safe, adequate, and permanent markets for the produce of free labour. And, when reproached with slavery, we would be able to say to the world, with an open front and a clear conscience, our General Government has nothing to do with it, either to promote, to sustain, to defend, to sanction, or to approve."

(a) Read the memorial of citizens of Boston, to the House of Representatives, on the imprisonment of *free* citizens of Massachusetts by the authorities of Savannah, Charleston, and New Orleans.

## THE DIFFERENT PARTIES.

### 1. The Democratic Party.

What, then, is the position of the political parties of the country in relation to this subject? One of these parties professes to be guided by the most liberal principles. "Equal and exact justice to all men," "equal rights for all men," "inflexible opposition to oppression," are its favourite mottoes. It claims to be the true friend of popular government, and assumes the name of Democratic. Among its members are, doubtless, many who cherish its professions as sacred principles, and believe that great cause of Freedom and Progress is to be served by promoting its ascendancy. But when we compare the maxims of the so-called Democratic party with its acts, its hypocrisy is plainly revealed. Among its leading members we find the principal slaveholders, the chiefs of the oligarchy. It has never scrupled to sacrifice the rights of the Free States, or of the people, to the demands of the slave power. Like Sir Pertinax McSycophant, its northern leaders believe that the great secret of advancement lies in "bowing well." No servility seems too gross, no self-degradation too great, to be submitted to.\* They think themselves well rewarded, if the unity of the party be preserved, and the spoils of victory secured. If, in the distribution of these spoils, they receive only the jackall's share, they content themselves with the reflection that little is better than nothing. They declaim loudly against all monopolies, all special privileges, all encroachments on personal rights, all distinctions founded upon birth, and compensate themselves for these efforts of virtue, by practising the vilest oppression upon all their countrymen, in whose complexions the slightest trace of African derivation can be detected.

Profoundly do we revere the maxims of true Democracy; they are identical with those of true Christianity, in relation to the rights and duties of men as citizens. And our reverence for Democratic principles is the precise measure of our detestation of the policy of those who are permitted to shape the action of the Democratic party. Political concert with that party, under its present leadership, is, therefore, plainly impossible. Nor do we entertain the hope, which many, no doubt, honestly cherish, that the professed principles of the party will, at length, bring it right upon the question of slavery. Its professed principles have been the same for nearly half a century, and yet the subjection of the party to the slave power is, at this moment, as complete as ever. There is no prospect of any change for the better, until those democrats whose hearts are really possessed by a generous love of liberty for all, and by an honest hatred of oppression, shall man-

fully assert their individual independence, and refuse their support to the panders of slavery.

### 2. The Whig Party.

There is another party which boasts that it is conservative in its character. Its watchwords are "a tariff," "a banking system," "the Union as it is." Among its members, also, are many sincere opponents of slavery; and the party itself, seeking aid in the attainment of power, and anxious to carry its favourite measures, and bound together by no such professed principles as secure the unity of the Democratic party, often concedes much to their anti-slavery views. It is not unwilling, in those States and parts of States where anti-slavery sentiment prevails, to assume an anti-slavery attitude, and claim to be an anti-slavery party. Like the Democratic party, however, the Whig party maintains alliances with the slaveholders. It proposes, in its national conventions, no action against slavery. It has no anti-slavery article in its national creed. Among its leaders and champions in Congress, and out of Congress, none are so honoured and trusted as slaveholders, in practice and in principle. Whatever the Whig party, therefore, concedes to anti-slavery, must be reluctantly conceded. Its natural position is conservative. Its natural line of action is to maintain things as they are. Its natural bond of union is regard for interests rather than for rights. There are, doubtless, zealous opponents of slavery, who are also zealous Whigs; but they have not the general confidence of their party; they are under the ban of the slaveholders; and in any practical anti-slavery movement, as, for example, the repeal of the laws which sanction slaveholding in the District of Columbia, would meet the determined opposition of a large and most influential section of the party, not because the people of the Free States would be opposed to the measure, but because it would be displeasing to the oligarchy and fatal to party unity. We are constrained to think, therefore, that all expectation of efficient anti-slavery action from the Whig party, as now organized, will prove delusive. Nor do we perceive any probability of a change in its organization, separating its anti-slavery from its pro-slavery constituents, and leaving the former in possession of the name and influence of the party. With the Whig party, therefore, as at present organized, it is as impossible for us, whose mottoes are "Equal Rights and Fair Wages for all," and "the Union as it should be," to act in alliance and concert, as it is for us so to act with the so-called Democratic party. We cannot choose between these parties for the sake of any local or partial advantage, without sacrificing consistency, self-

\* The following is a brief history of the several resolutions which have passed the House of Representatives since 1836, against the consideration of any petitions respecting slavery. They are familiarly called "Gag Resolutions," and go by the name of the persons who introduced them.

Pinckney's Gag was passed May 26, 1836, by a majority of 46. Of the 117 yeas, 82 were from the Free States.

Hawke's Gag, January 18, 1837, by a majority of 58. Of the yeas, 70 were from the Free States.

Patton's Gag, December 31, 1838, by a majority of 48. Of the yeas, 52 were from the Free States.

Atherton's Gag, January 12, 1839, by a majority of 48.

Of the yeas, 49 were from the Free States, AND ALL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Johnson's Gag, January 28, 1840, by a majority of 6. Of the yeas, 28 were from the Free States, AND ALL BUT ONE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. But none of these "gags" would have been carried had it not been for SOUTHERN WHIGS. Of the yeas for Johnson's Gag, 40 were WHIGS FROM THE SLAVE STATES. This, as well as every other important subject of legislation in Congress for the last thirty years, shows clearly, that with the South, all party distinctions give way at once, at the bidding of slavery. When Northern men shall be as united for liberty as Southern men have been for slavery, how soon will our country be free from its present reproach!

respect, and mutual confidence. While we say this, we are bound to add, that were either of these parties to disappoint our expectations, and to adopt into its *national creed as its leading articles*, the principles which we regard as fundamental, and enter upon a course of unfeigned and earnest action against the system of slavery, we should not hesitate, regarding, as we do, the question of slavery as the paramount question of our day and nation, to give to it our cordial and vigorous support, until slavery should be no more.

With what party, then, shall we act? Or shall we act with none? Act, in some way, we must: for the possession of the right of suffrage, the right of electing our own law-makers and rulers, imposes upon us the corresponding duty of voting for men who will carry out the views which we deem of paramount importance and obligation. Act together we must; for upon the questions which we regard as the most vital we are fully agreed. We must act then; act together; and act against slavery and oppression. Acting thus, we necessarily act as a party; for what is a party, but a body of citizens, acting together politically, in good faith, upon common principles, for a common object? And if there be a party already in existence, animated by the same motives, and aiming at the same results, as ourselves, we must act with and in that party.

#### THE LIBERTY PARTY.

That there is such a party, is well known. It is the Liberty Party of the United States. Its principles, measures, and objects we cordially approve. It finds itself upon the great cardinal principle of true Democracy and of true Christianity, the brotherhood of the Human Family. It avows its purpose to wage implacable war against slaveholding as the direst form of oppression, and then against every other species of tyranny and injustice. Its views on the subject of slavery in this country are, in the main, the same as those which we have set forth in this address. Its members agree to regard the extinction of slavery as the most important end which can, at this time, be proposed to political action; and they agree to differ as to other questions of minor importance, such as those of trade and currency, believing that these can be satisfactorily disposed of, when the question of slavery shall be settled, and that, until then, they cannot be satisfactorily disposed of at all.

The rise of such a party as this was anticipated long before its actual organization, by the single-hearted and patriotic Charles Follen, a German by birth, but a true American by adoption and in spirit. "If there ever is to be in this country," he said in 1836, "a party that shall take its name and

\* The Liberty party, at the Presidential election in 1840, gave 6983 votes; at the election in 1844, it gave 62,324 votes. Its growth has been regular, and as rapid as could be expected. It resorts to no unworthy means to increase its numbers, and desires others to join its ranks, only as they are convinced of the truth and righteousness of its principles.

Let it not, however, be despised for its yet comparatively small numbers. The great philosophical historian, Milman, says, "It is erroneous to estimate strength and influence by numerical calculation. All political changes are wrought by a compact, organized, and disciplined minority." This is the secret of the success of the slaveholders. They

character, not from particular liberal measures or popular men, but from its uncompromising and consistent adherence to freedom—a truly liberal and thoroughly republican party, it must direct its first decided effort against the grossest form, the most complete manifestation of oppression; and, having taken anti-slavery ground, it must carry out the principle of Liberty in all its consequences. It must support every measure conducive to the greatest possible individual and social, moral, intellectual, religious, and political freedom, whether that measure be brought forward by inconsistent slaveholders or inconsistent freemen. It must embrace the whole sphere of human action; watching and opposing the slightest illiberal and anti-republican tendency, and concentrating its whole force and influence against slavery itself, in comparison with which every other species of tyranny is tolerable, and by which every other is strengthened and justified."

Thus wrote Charles Follen in 1836. It is impossible to express better the want which enlightened lovers of liberty felt of a real Democratic party in the country—Democratic not in name only, but in deed and in truth. In this want, thus felt, the Liberty party had its origin,\* and so long as this want remains otherwise unsatisfied, the Liberty party must exist; not as a mere Abolition party, but as a truly Democratic party, which aims at the extinction of slavery, because slaveholding is inconsistent with Democratic principles; aims at it, not as an ultimate end, but as the most important present object; as a great and necessary step in the work of reform; as an illustrious era in the advancement of society, to be wrought out by its action and instrumentality. The Liberty party of 1845 is, in truth, the Liberty party of 1776 revived. It is more: It is the party of Advancement and Freedom, which has, in every age, and with varying success, fought the battles of Human Liberty, against the party of False Conservatism and Slavery.

#### WILL YOU NOT JOIN IT?

And now, fellow citizens, permit us to ask, whether you will not give to this party the aid of your votes, and of your counsels? Its aims are lofty, and noble, and pacific; its means are simple and unobjectionable. Why should it not have your co-operation?

#### ANTI-SLAVERY MEN!

Are you already anti-slavery men? Let us ask, is it not far better to act with those with whom you agree on the fundamental point of slavery, and swell the vote and augment the moral force of anti-slavery, rather than to act with those with whom you agree only on minor points; and thus, for the

have controlled the government for the past fifty years, because they have been a "*compact, organized, and disciplined minority.*" It is computed, on a careful estimate, that there are not more than 250,000 slaveholders in the land, and that of these, deducting widows, minors, and others, there are not more than 150,000 voters. When the Liberty party shall be "*a compact, organized, and disciplined minority*" of such a size, and shall control the counsels of the nation in favour of liberty, as the slaveholders now control them in favour of slavery, how soon will slavery die! Reader! will you not resolve that you will be one to help in bringing about such a glorious result.

time, swell a vote and augment an influence which must be counted against the Liberty movement, in the vain hope that those with whom you thus act now, will, at some indefinite future period, act with you for the overthrow of slavery? There are, perhaps, nearly equal numbers of you in each of the pro-slavery parties, honestly opposed to each other on questions of trade, currency, and extension of territory, but of one mind on the great question of slavery; and yet you suffer yourselves to be played off against each other by parties which agree in nothing except hostility to the great measure of positive action against slavery, which seems to you, and is, of paramount importance. What can you gain by this course? What may you not gain by laying your minor difference on the altar of duty, and uniting as one man, in one party, against slavery? Then every vote would tell for freedom, and would encourage the friends of liberty to fresh efforts. Now

\* To the question "what has the North to do with slavery," no answer more satisfactory, and none more eloquent, certainly, can be given, than the following extract from a letter from Cassius M. Clay, dated Lexington, Kentucky, October 25th, 1845, to Messrs. C. D. Cleveland, J. Bouvier, W. Elder, and T. S. Cavender, a committee that forwarded to him a series of resolutions adopted at a meeting held in the State House in Philadelphia, to sympathize with him in the brutal assault made upon his press, and the violence threatened to his person, by the mob of the 18th of August.

"The question has been again and again asked, in the most complacent simplicity, 'What has the free North to do with Slavery?' The Slave States added to the Union; the unconstitutional establishment of slavery in the District of Columbia; its unlawful sufferance in the Territories, the high seas, and places of national, exclusive jurisdiction, answer, the North is as guilty of this crime against man's supremacy and immortality as the South; more so, because she is derelict in her duty, with far less temptation. But as no offence goes unpunished, she is reaping the fruit of her sorry policy, by the unjust and disgraceful wars in which she has been compelled to engage—by taxes which have been imposed upon her—by the immense capital which has been swallowed up in Southern bankruptcy—by the hanging of citizens without trial by jury and without law—by the imprisonment of her seamen—by the expulsion of, and insult to, her ambassadors—by the denial of justice in courts of national justice—and lastly, by the impudent seizure and forcible abduction of her own free-born citizens upon her own soil, and their incarceration in distant prisons. Shall any one be so base as any longer to ask, 'What has the North to do with Slavery?' or rather shall not the cry henceforth for ever, until the end, be, 'What shall the North do, to have nothing to do with Slavery?'"

Again, in the same letter, speaking of the threats uttered against himself, and the attack upon the freedom of the press, he says:

"If this be an unnecessary infliction of the slave power, I call upon the nation to relieve me. If it be a necessary woe, following in the wake of American slavery, then, by all that is sacred among men, or holy in heaven, let AMERICANS RISE IN THE OMNIPOTENCY OF THE BALLOT, and say, SLAVERY SHALL DIE!"

That is the true doctrine. Let all the citizens of the Free States, and all the non-slaveholders in the Slave States RISE IN THE OMNIPOTENCY OF THE BALLOT, AND SAY, SLAVERY SHALL DIE.

+ According to the Constitution, DIRECT TAXES must be apportioned among the several States in the ratio of their representation; and as the slave representatives would increase this number, it would also increase the amount of the tax in the same ratio. But mark how the slaveholders have escaped the consequence of this "compromise." The whole net revenue of our Government, from the 4th of March, 1789, to January 1, 1845, has amounted to about

every vote, whether you intend it so or not, tells for slavery, and operates as a discouragement and hindrance to those who are contending for equal rights. Let us entreat you not to persevere in your suicidal, fratricidal course; but to renounce at once all pro-slavery alliances, and join the friends of liberty. It is not the question now whether a Liberty party shall be organized; it is organized and in the field. The real question, and the only real question, is: Will you, so far as your votes and influence go, hasten or retard the day of its triumph?

#### ALL MEN OF THE FREE STATES!

Are you men of the Free States? And have you not suffered enough of wrong, of insult, and of contumely, from the slaveholding oligarchy?\*. Have you not been taxed enough for the support of slavery?† Is it not enough that all the powers of the government are exerted for its maintenance,‡ and that all

975 millions of dollars; of which but little more than 12 millions have been received in direct taxes; and of this, the South has paid for her slave representation only \$1,256,553, or about one million and a quarter. But had the revenue of the Government, amounting to 975 millions, been raised by direct taxation, the South would have had to pay, as her proportion, for her slave representation, over 105 millions; but instead of that she has paid but one million and a quarter.

When, therefore, at the close of the last war, our country was in debt about 120 millions of dollars, the South resolved that this should not be paid by direct taxes, but by duties laid upon imported goods. Accordingly the Tariff of 1816 was established. It was then emphatically a Southern measure. That Tariff, for instance, admitted the articles used for the clothing of slaves at a duty of *five cents* on the dollar's worth, and charged *twenty cents* on the dollar's worth of finer articles used for the clothing of free labourers, thereby making the honest labour of the Free States pay *four dollars*, while the slave labour of the Slave States paid but *one*, for clothing.

The Free States, however, with their industry and skill, soon accommodated themselves to this state of things, and their manufactures, by degrees, rose to a height of great prosperity. But no sooner was our national debt paid, than the South, ever watchful of its purpose, resolved to strike a death-blow at the prosperity of the Free States; and, accordingly, the celebrated "compromise" Tariff of 1832 was devised and carried; in which the "compromise" was, as it ever has been, *all one way*. Nothing is clearer than that the Slave power put on the Tariff in 1816, and took it off in 1832. They have done just as they pleased. Reader, it is in your power to say, they shall do so no longer.

+ The aggregate amount of the appropriations for THE NAVY, for three years previous to 1846, was 17,357,556 dollars, a considerable portion of which was spent for the HOME SQUADRON, which consisted, in 1843, of one frigate, three sloops of war, four brigs, one schooner, and one steamship. But why all this array of naval force on our own coast at a time of profound peace? Let the late Judge Upshur, a Secretary of the Navy, and a Virginian, answer. In his first report to Congress, he speaks of "those incursions from which so much evil is to be apprehended." Again; "the effect of these incursions on the SOUTHERN portion of our country would be disastrous in the extreme." And again; "the Southern naval stations more especially, require a large force for their security. A large number of arms is kept in each of them, which, by a sudden irruption of a class of PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS, might be seized and used for very disastrous purposes." Here, men of the Free States, you have the whole of it. Here you see how we are taxed to provide a force to keep the slaves of the Southern States from insurrection. "What has the North to do with slavery?"

Again: look at the Post-Office Department. How enormous were the rates of postage for fifty years; and even now (1845) they are by no means so low as they should

the Departments of the Government are in the hands of the Slave power? How long will you consent by your votes to maintain slavery at the seat of the National Government, in violation of the Constitution of your country, and thus, give your direct sanction to the whole dreadful system? How long will you consent to be represented in the National Councils by men who will not dare to assert their own rights or yours in the presence of an arrogant aristocracy; and, in your State Legislatures, by men whose utmost height of courage and manly daring, when your citizens are imprisoned, without allegation of crime, in slave States, and your agents sent for their relief, are driven out; as you would scourge from your premises an intrusive cur, is to *protest and submit*. Rouse up, men of the free States, for shame, if not for duty! Awake to a sense of your degraded position. Behold your President, a slaveholder; his cabinet composed of slaveholders or their abject instruments; the two Houses of Congress submissive and servile; your representatives with foreign nations, most of them slaveholders; your supreme administrators of justice, most of them slaveholders; your officers of the army and navy, most of them slaveholders.\* Observe the results. What numerous appointments of pro-slavery citizens of slave States to national employments! What careful exclusion of every man who holds the faith of Jefferson and Washington in respect to slavery, and believes with Madison "that it is wrong to admit in the Constitution the idea of property in man," from national offices of honour and trust!† What assiduity in negotiations for the reclamation of slaves, cast, in the Providence of God, on foreign shores;‡ and for the extension of the markets of cotton, and rice, and tobacco, ay, and of men! What zeal on the judicial bench in wresting the Constitution and the law to the purposes of slaveholders, by shielding kidnappers from merited punishment, and paralyzing State legislation for the security of personal liberty! What readiness in legislation to serve the interests of the oligarchy by unconstitu-

be. But why those high rates? In order that the Free States, where there is so much more correspondence, might make up the loss the department sustained in the Slave States. In 1844, the Free States were a gain to the department of more than half a million of dollars, while the Slave States were a loss to the department of more than half a million. The Liberty Party will not cease in their efforts in this matter, till the postage here is the same as it is in England; **TWO CENTS, PREPAID BY STAMPS, FOR ALL DISTANCES, ON EVERY LETTER WEIGHING HALF AN OUNCE.** What comfort and joy would this bring to the door of every farmer, tradesman, mechanic, merchant, and professional man throughout the land!

Again : see how we were taxed to support the Florida war. That war, so disgraceful to our country, cost **FORTY MILLIONS** of dollars; and it was undertaken, prosecuted, and finished, solely for the benefit of the slaveholder, that the slave, escaping from his tyranny, might not find protection in the wigwam of the red man. It was for this that the decree went forth, that the Indian must be driven from his native forests; and the foul deed was done. "What has the North to do with Slavery?"

\* Of the **43** officers in the Navy Department in Washington, in 1844, there were **31** from the Slave States, and but **12** from the Free States: and of all the officers in the Navy, whether in actual service or waiting orders, Pennsylvania, with free population more than double that of Virginia, had but **177**, while Virginia had **224**.

† Never was this policy of the slaveholders more conspicuous than in filling the vacancy on the bench of the

tional provisions for the recovery of fugitive slaves, and by laying heavy duties on slave-labour products, thereby compelling non-slaveholding labourers to support slaveholders in idleness and luxury! When shall these things have an end? How long shall servile endurance be protracted? It is for you, fellow citizens, to determine. The shameful partiality to slaveholders and slavery which has so long prevailed, and now prevails, in the administration of the government, will cease when you determine that it shall cease, and act accordingly.

#### ALL NON-SLAVEHOLDERS OF THE SLAVE STATES!

Are you non-slaveholders of the slave States? Let us ask you to consider what interest you have in the system of slavery. What benefits does it confer on you? What blessings does it promise to your children? You constitute the vast majority of the population of the slave States. The aggregate votes of all the slaveholders do not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand, while the votes of the non-slaveholders are at least six hundred thousand, supposing each adult male to possess a vote. It is clear, therefore, that the continuance of slavery depends upon your suffrages. We repeat, what interest have you in supporting the system?

#### THE FRUITS OF SLAVERY.

Slavery diminishes your population and hinders your prosperity. Compare New York with Virginia, Ohio with Kentucky, Arkansas with Michigan, Florida with Iowa. Need we say more?§

It prevents general education. It is not the interest of slaveholders that poor non-slaveholders should be educated. The census of 1840 reveals the astounding facts that more than one-seventeenth of the white population in the slave States are unable to read or write, while not a hundred and fiftieth part of the same class in the free are in the same condition, and that there are more than twelve times as many scholars at public charge in the free States as in the slave States.||

Supreme Court, occasioned by the death of Judge Thompson, in December, 1843. Two or three most able and upright men were rejected by the Senate, because it was feared that they had sentiments adverse to slavery. And how tame, on all such occasions, have been the Senators from the Free States! But such instances might be multiplied indefinitely.

† See the letter of instructions written by Daniel Webster, as Secretary of State, to Edward Everett, our minister at London, respecting the slaves shipwrecked in the brig Creole; a letter of such a character as to receive a deservedly severe review from an independent and able editor of the Secretary's own party—Charles King, of the New York American.

¶ In 1790, Virginia, with about **70,000** square miles of territory, contained a population of **748,308**; New York, with about **45,000** square miles of territory, contained a population of **340,120**, not one half. In 1810, Virginia had **1,239,797**; New York, **2,428,921**, nearly double. In 1800, Kentucky had **220,955** inhabitants; Ohio, **45,365**: in 1840, the former had increased to **779,828**; the latter, to **1,519,467** inhabitants. In Virginia there are **12** free inhabitants to a square mile; in New York, **52**.

|| According to the last census there are of scholars in free schools, in the Free States, **432,173**; in the Slave States, **35,580**. Ohio alone has **51,812** such scholars, more than are to be found in all the **13** Slave States.

In 1837, Governor Campbell reported to the Virginia legislature, that from the return of **98** clerks, it appeared that of

It paralyzes your industry and enterprise. The census of 1840 also disclosed the fact that the free States, with two millions and a quarter inhabitants more, and ninety-eight millions acres less than the slave States, produce annually, in value, from mines, thirty-three millions dollars more; from the forests, eight millions dollars more; from fisheries, nine millions dollars more; from agriculture, forty millions dollars more; from manufactures, one hundred and fifty-one millions dollars more. At the same time, the capital invested in commerce by the free States exceeds the capital similarly invested in the slave States by more than one hundred millions of dollars; and the tonnage of the former exceeds the tonnage of the latter by more than a thousand millions tons! This enormous disparity, which will strike attention the more forcibly when it is considered that much of the capital employed in the slave States is owned in the free, can be ascribed to no cause except slavery.\*

It degrades and dishonours labour. In what country did an aristocracy ever care for the poor? When did slaveholders ever attempt to improve the condition of the free labourer? "White negroes" is the contemptuous term by which Robert Wickliffe, of Kentucky, designated the free labourers of his State. He saw no distinction between them and slaves, except that the former may be converted into voters. Chancellor Harper, of South Carolina, teaches that, "so far as the mere labourer has the pride, the knowledge or the aspiration of a freeman, he is unfitted for his situation." And he likens the labourer "to the horse or the ox," to whom it would be ridiculous to attempt to impart "a cultivated understanding or fine feeling." Governor McDuffie, in a message to the legislature of South Carolina, went so far as to say that "the institution of domestic slavery supersedes the necessity of an order of nobility, and the other appendages of an hereditary system of government." Of course the slaveholders are the noble, and you, the non-slaveholders, are the ignoble, of this social system.

**4614** applications for marriage licenses, no less than **1047** were made by MEN UNABLE TO WRITE! How admirably calculated to assume the responsibilities of the father!

\* SHIPPING, value of, in the Free States **\$6,311,805**  
" " Slave States **704,291**

MANUFACTURES, value in the Free  
States **\$334,139,690**  
" " Slave States **83,935,742**

+ "From long-continued and close observation, we believe that the moral and religious condition of the slaves is such, that they may justly be considered the HEATHEN of this Christian country, and will bear comparison with heathen in any country in the world. The negroes are destitute of the gospel, and ever will be under the present state of things."—Report published by the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, December 3, 1833.

The Rev. C. C. Jones, in a sermon preached before two associations of Planters in Georgia, thus writes: "Generally speaking they (the slaves) appear to us to be without God and without hope in the world; a NATION OF HEATHENS in our very midst."

In the 10th Annual Report of the Sunday School Union, we see that there were that year in the Free States **504,835** scholars; and in the Slave States **82,532**. The single State of New York had **161,768**, about twice as many as all the Slave States together.

† The following table shows the force that each of the thirteen States supplied for the regular army from 1775 to 1783 inclusive, and also, the sums allowed to the several States for expenses incurred during the Revolutionary War.

Slavery corrupts the religion and destroys the morals of a community. We need not repeat Jefferson's strong testimony. In a message to the legislature of Kentucky, some years since, the Governor said, "We long to see the day when the law will assert its majesty, and stop the wanton destruction of life which almost daily occurs within the jurisdiction of this Commonwealth." And the Governor of Alabama, in a message to the legislature of that State, said, "Why do we hear of stabbings and shootings, almost daily, in some part or other of our State?" A Judge in New Orleans, in an address on the opening of his court, observed, "Without some powerful and certain remedy our streets will become butcheries, overflowing with the blood of our citizens." These terrible pictures are drawn by home pencils. Can communities prosper when religion and morality furnish no stronger restraints on violence and passion?†

Slavery is a source of most deplorable weakness. What a panic is spread by the bare suggestion of a servile insurrection! And how completely are the slaveholding States at the mercy of any invading foe who will raise the standard of emancipation! In the revolutionary war, according to the secret journals of Congress, South Carolina was "unable to make any effectual efforts with militia, by reason of the great proportion of citizens necessary to remain at home to prevent insurrection among the negroes, and to prevent the desertion of them to the enemy." We need not say that if the danger of insurrection was then great, it would be, circumstances being similar, tenfold greater now.‡

Slavery seeks to deprive non-slaveholders of political power. In Virginia and South Carolina especially, has this policy been most steadily and successfully pursued. In South Carolina the political power of the State is lodged in the great slaveholding districts by the Constitution, and to make assurance doubly sure, it is provided, in that instrument, that no person can be a member of the legislature unless he owns five hundred acres of land and ten slaves,

States.	Troops furnished.	Money allowed
New Hampshire,	<b>12,497</b>	<b>\$4,278,015</b>
Massachusetts,	<b>67,907</b>	<b>17,964,613</b>
Rhode Island,	<b>5,908</b>	<b>3,782,974</b>
Connecticut,	<b>31,939</b>	<b>9,285,737</b>
New York,	<b>17,781</b>	<b>7,179,982</b>
New Jersey,	<b>10,726</b>	<b>5,342,770</b>
Pennsylvania,	<b>25,678</b>	<b>14,137,076</b>
Total of the present seven Free States. } <b>172,436</b>		<b>\$61,971,167</b>
Delaware,	<b>2,386</b>	<b>0,839,319</b>
Maryland,	<b>13,912</b>	<b>7,568,145</b>
Virginia,	<b>26,678</b>	<b>19,085,981</b>
North Carolina,	<b>7,263</b>	<b>10,427,586</b>
South Carolina,	<b>6,417</b>	<b>11,523,299</b>
Georgia,	<b>2,679</b>	<b>2,993,800</b>
Total of the present six Slave States. } <b>59,335</b>		<b>\$52,438,130</b>

Besides this, it might be added, that of the 45 officers of the revolutionary army, the seven Northern States furnished 30, the six Southern States 15.

By this table it will be seen, that while the Northern States furnished about three times the number of troops furnished by the Southern States, they received not one-fifth more money. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, furnished but 16,359 troops, and received about 25 millions of dollars; New York furnished 17,781 troops, and received but 7 millions. Virginia received over a million of dollars more than Massachusetts, while she furnished but a little more than one-third the number

of soldiers.

or an equivalent in additional land. The right of voting for electors of President and Vice-President is, in South Carolina, confined to members of the legislature; consequently, in that State no non-slaveholder can have a voice in the selection of the first and second officers of the Republic. In Virginia the slave population is considered the basis of political power, and the preponderance of representation is given to those districts in which there is the largest slave population. The House of Representatives consists of one hundred and thirty-four members, of whom fifty-six are chosen by the counties west of the Blue Ridge, and seventy-eight by the counties east. The Senate consists of thirty-two members, of whom thirteen are assigned to the western, and nineteen to the eastern counties. Already the free white population west of the Blue Ridge exceeds the same class east in number, but no change in the population can affect this distribution of political power, designed to secure and preserve the ascendancy of the slaveholders, who chiefly reside east of the Ridge, so long as the Constitution remains unchanged.

#### To Non-SLAVERHOLDERS.

These, non-slaveholders of the Slave States, are the fruits of slavery. You surely can have no reason to love a system which entails such consequences. Yet it lives by your sufferance. You have only to speak the word at the ballot-box, and the system falls.\* Will you be restrained from speaking that word by the consideration that the enslaved will be benefited as well as yourselves? or by the selfish expectation that you may yourselves become slaveholders hereafter, and so be admitted into the ranks of the aristocracy? If such considerations withhold you, we bid you beware lest you prepare a bitter retribution for yourselves, and find, to your mortification and shame, that a patent of nobility, written in the tears and blood of the oppressed, is a sorry passport to the approbation of mankind.

#### To SLAVEHOLDERS.

We would appeal, also, to slaveholders themselves. We would enter at once within the lines of selfish ideas and mercenary motives, and appeal to your consciences and your hearts. You know that the system of slaveholding is wrong. Whatever theologians may teach and cite scripture for, you know—all of you who claim freedom for yourselves and your children as a birthright precious beyond all price, and inalienable as life—that no person can rightfully hold another as a slave. Your courts, in

\* The following extract from a speech of the Mayor of New Orleans, indicates what power is felt to lie in the ballot-box. "So long as the people at the North contented themselves with the name of Abolitionists, we of the South had nothing to fear, but now that they carry the subject to the ballot-box, we have reason to tremble for the safety of our institutions."

† Another instance of gross injustice that occurs to us, is the distribution of the Surplus Revenue, by the Act of 1836. The sum to be distributed was \$37,468,859; and the act declared that it should be divided in proportion to the representation of the several States in Congress. Of this, the South, with a free population of 3,789,674, received \$16,058,082; while the North, with a free

population of 7,003,229, received but \$21,410,777. So that for each inhabitant of the free North there was but \$3.05, while for each *free* person of the South there was received \$4.23; or \$1.18 more for each free person in the South, than for each free person in the North. Consequently, the South, by this operation alone, received for her slave representation in Congress more than four MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

But what makes the injustice of this distribution still more flagrant, is the fact, that the surplus revenue was mostly accumulated by Northern industry and enterprise; first, from the duties on imported merchandise, of which the North pays three dollars to one paid by the South; and second, from the sales of the public lands, which are

fied, to use the language of one of your own number, "that slavery is a cancer, a slow consuming cancer, a withering pestilence, an unmitigated curse!" And can you wonder that we should be anxious, by all just, and honourable, and constitutional means, to effect its extinction in our respective States, and to confine it to its constitutional limits? Are you not fully aware that the gross inconsistency of slaveholding with our professed principles astonishes the world, and makes the name of our country a mock, and the name of liberty a by-word? And can you regret that we should exert ourselves to the utmost to redeem our glorious land and her institutions from just reproach, and, by illustrious acts of mercy and justice, place ourselves, once more, in the van of Human Progress and Advancement?

**TO ALL FRIENDS OF LIBERTY, AND OF OUR COUNTRY'S BEST INTERESTS.**

Finally, we ask all true friends of liberty, of impartial, universal liberty, to be firm and steadfast. The little handful of voters, who, in 1840, wearied of compromising expediency, and despairing of anti-slavery action by pro-slavery parties, raised anew the standard of the Declaration, and manfully resolved to vote right then and vote for freedom, has already swelled to a **GREAT PARTY**, strong enough, numerically, to decide the issue of any national contest, and stronger far in the power of its pure and elevating principles. And if these principles be sound, which we doubt not, and if the question of slavery be, as we verily believe it is, the **GREAT QUESTION** of our day and nation, it is a libel upon the intelligence, the patriotism, and the virtue of the American people to say that there is no hope that a majority will not array themselves under our banner. Let it not be said that we are factious or impracticable. We adhere to our views because we believe them to be sound, practicable and vitally important. We have already said that we are ready to prove our devotion to our principles by co-operation with either of the other two great American Parties, which will openly and honestly, in State and National Conventions, avow our doctrines and adopt our measures, until slavery shall be overthrown. We do not, indeed, expect any such adoption and avowal by either of those parties, because we are well aware that they fear more, at present, from the loss of slaveholding support than from the loss of anti-slavery co-operation. But we can be satisfied with nothing less, for we will compromise no longer;

and, therefore, must of necessity maintain our separate organization as the true Democratic Party of the country, and trust our cause to the patronage of the people and the blessing of God!

Carry then, friends of freedom and free labour, your principles to the ballot-box. Let no difficulties discourage, no dangers daunt, no delays dishearten you. Your solemn vow that slavery must perish is registered in heaven. Renew that vow! Think of the martyrs of truth and freedom; think of the millions of the enslaved; think of the other millions of the oppressed and degraded free; and renew that vow! Be not tempted from the path of political duty. Vote for no man, act with no party politically connected with the supporters of slavery. Vote for no man, act with no party unwilling to adopt and carry out the principles which we have set forth in this address. To compromise for any partial or temporary advantage is ruin to our cause. To act with any party, or to vote for the candidates of any party, which recognises the friends and supporters of slavery as members in full standing, because in particular places, or under particular circumstances, it may make large professions of anti-slavery zeal, is to commit political suicide. Unswerving fidelity to our principles; unalterable determination to carry those principles to the ballot-box at every election; inflexible and unanimous support of those, and only those, who are true to those principles, are the conditions of our ultimate triumph. Let these conditions be fulfilled, and our triumph is certain. The indications of its coming multiply on every hand. The clarion trump of freedom breaks already the gloomy silence of slavery in Kentucky, and its echoes are heard throughout the land. A spirit of inquiry and of action is awakened everywhere. The assemblage of the convention, whose voice we utter, is itself an auspicious omen. Gathered from the North and the South, and the East and West, we here unite our counsels, and consolidate our action. We are resolved to go forward, knowing that our cause is just, trusting in God. We ask you to go forward with us, invoking His blessing who sent his Son to redeem mankind. With Him are the issues of all events. He can and He will disappoint all the devices of oppression. He can, and we trust He will, make our instrumentality efficient for the redemption of our land from slavery, and for the fulfilment of our fathers' pledge in behalf of freedom, before Him and before the world.\*

mostly bought by settlers from the Free States. So that, in short, while the Free States were mainly instrumental in accumulating the surplus revenue, in its distribution the Slave States received more than their just share by over **FOUR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS!** Who will now ask, "What has the North to do with slavery?"

\* The following is the concluding paragraph of the Address of the great Liberty Convention of the Friends of Freedom in the Eastern and Middle States, held in Boston, October 1, 2, and 3, 1845.

"And, now, men of the free North!—Citizens of the Eastern and Middle States!—by every consideration of religion, humanity and patriotism, you are urged to the exertion of *all* your powers for the overthrow of slavery. Your homes and your altars, your honour and good name, are at stake. The slave in his prison stretches his manacled hands towards you, imploring your aid. A cloud of witnesses surrounds you. The oppressed millions of Eu-

rope beseech you to remove from their pathway to freedom the reproach and stumbling-block of Democratic slavery. From the damp depths of dungeons—from the stake and the scaffold, where the martyrs of liberty have sealed their testimony with their blood—solemn and awful voices call upon you to make the dead letter of your republicanism a living truth. Join with us, then, fellow citizens. Slavery is mighty: but it can be overthrown. In the name of God and humanity, let us bring the mighty ballot-box of a kingless people to bear upon it. The model man of our Republic, who might have been a king, but would not, calls from his grave upon each of us to do that, which he solemnly declared himself ready to do—to give his vote to free the slave and to abolish the wicked phantasy of property in man." He shall not call in vain. We acknowledge the duty of consecrating our votes to the deliverance of the oppressed, and joyfully do we perform it.

# LIBERTY PAPERS.

The following is a correct list of all the Liberty papers published in our country, according to the best information we have been able to obtain. It is given here, that those who, after reading this Address, may be favourable to its views, but who have not as yet taken any paper devoted to the cause, may see what one will best suit their convenience or their taste. There is hardly a subject of national or state interest that is not more or less affected by Slavery, and our Liberty papers, to say nothing of the signal ability with which most of them are conducted, give that information on this important subject as connected with the great interests of our country, that will be in vain sought for in the papers of either of the other parties.

MAINE, -----	Liberty Standard, Bangor Gazette,	Hallowell, Bangor,	weekly, " "	\$2 00 1 50
NEW HAMPSHIRE, Granite Freeman,		Concord,	" "	1 50
VERMONT, -----	Green Mountain Freeman, Genius of Liberty,	Montpelier, Ludlow,	" "	2 00 1 50
MASSACHUSETTS, The Emancipator, Hampshire Herald, Christian Citizen, Worcester County Gazette, Essex Transcript, Beacon of Liberty, Chronotype, Liberty Sentinel,		Boston, Northampton, Worcester, Amesbury, Taunton, Boston, Pittsfield, Woonsocket,	" "	2 00 2 00 1 50 1 50 1 00 5 00 1 50 1 00
RHODE ISLAND, - Woonsocket Patriot, Rhode Island Liberty Pioneer,		Providence, Hartford, Albany, Cortland Village, Utica, Syracuse, Honeoye, New York, Perry, Little Falls,	" "	1 50 2 00 1 00 2 00 1 25 monthly, " "
CONNECTICUT, - Charter Oak,		Boonton,	" "	50 50
NEW YORK, ----- Albany Patriot, The True American, Liberty Press, Liberty Intelligencer, Christian Investigator, Anti-Slavery Reporter, The Countryman, Herkimer Freeman, New Jersey Freeman,		Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Washington, Mercer, Indiana, Cincinnati	" "	2 00 2 00 2 00 2 00 1 50 daily, weekly,
NEW JERSEY, -----		Cleveland, Cadiz, Warren, New Lisbon, New Garden, Indianapolis, Centre, Grant County,	" "	2 00 1 50 5 00 2 00
PENNSYLVANIA, - The American Citizen, The Spirit of Liberty, The Washington Patriot, The Mercer Luminary, Clarion of Freedom,		Chicago,	daily, weekly,	2 00 2 00
OHIO, ----- Morning Herald, Philanthropist, Cleveland American, Liberty Advocate, Liberty Herald, Aurora,		Ann Arbor, Prairieville, Lexington,	" "	2 00 2 00 2 50
INDIANA, ----- Free Labour Advocate, Indiana Freeman, Western Aurora,				
ILLINOIS, ----- Chicago Daily News, Western Citizen,				
MICHIGAN, ----- Signal of Liberty,				
WISCONSIN, ----- American Freeman,				
KENTUCKY, ----- True American,				

The following are some of the most prominent Religious Papers that are decidedly Anti-Slavery, or friendly to the Anti-Slavery cause:

The Recorder,	Boston, Mass.,	weekly,	Orthodox Congregational.
The Christian Reflector,	" "	" "	Baptist.
Zion's Herald,	" "	" "	Methodist.
The Morning Star,	Dover, N. H.,	" "	Free Will Baptist.
The Evangelist,	New York,	" "	New School Presbyterian.
True Wesleyan,	" "	" "	Methodist.
Watchman of the Valley,	Cincinnati, Ohio,	" "	New School Presbyterian.
Oberlin Evangelist,	Oberlin,	" "	Congregational.

This Address may be had at the office of the American Citizen, No. 46 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia, at ten dollars a thousand. Five hundred will be sent to one address for \$6; any number below that \$1,50 a hundred. Will not Liberty men and Liberty editors everywhere do what they can to promote its wide circulation. So effective, and at the same time, so cheap a document it is believed has not yet been issued from the Liberty press. Orders, post paid, directed as above, enclosing the money, will be promptly attended to.















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